Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended): A computer-implemented method for routing data traffic in a network having a plurality of network layers including an application layer, the method comprising:

receiving the data traffic at a network cache;

selecting one of a plurality of routing options for the data traffic with reference to information in the application layer; and

routing the data traffic according to the selected routing option.

2. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the data traffic has been redirected from an original destination according to a caching protocol.

3. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the data traffic comprises a request from a source platform to a destination platform.

4. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the data traffic comprises a response to a request, the request being from a source platform to a destination platform.

5. (previously presented): The method of claim 1 further comprising parsing the information in the application layer.

6. (previously presented): The method of claim 5 wherein the information comprises a URL associated with the data traffic.

7. (previously presented): The method of claim 6 wherein the information comprises a suffix associated with the URL.

8. (previously presented): The method of claim 7 wherein parsing the information comprises determining whether the suffix associated with the URL indicates one of a plurality of MIME types.

9. (original): The method of claim 8 wherein the plurality of MIME types comprises *.gif, *.jpg, *.pdf, *.mpX, and *.htm.

10. (previously presented): The method of claim 5 wherein parsing the information comprises determining whether the data traffic relates to ascii or binary data objects.

11. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein selecting one of the plurality of options comprises setting one of a plurality of socket options for the data traffic.

12. (original): The method of claim 11 wherein the plurality of socket options include a first link and a second link, the first link socket option being selected for a first type of data traffic and the second link socket option being selected for a second type of data traffic.

13. (original): The method of claim 12 wherein the first and second links comprise land and satellite links, respectively.

14. (original): The method of claim 12 wherein the first and second types of data comprise ascii and binary data, respectively.

15. (original): A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium having computer program instructions stored therein for implementing the method of claim 1.

16. (currently amended): A computer-implemented method for routing data traffic in a network which has been redirected to a network cache, the method comprising:

receiving the data traffic with the network cache;

selecting one of a plurality of routing options for the data traffic with reference to information in the application layer about the data traffic accessible by the network cache; and

routing the data traffic according to the selected routing option.

17. (previously presented): The method of claim 16 wherein the information relates to whether a data object associated with the data traffic is cacheable.

18. (previously presented): The method of claim 16 wherein the information relates to whether the data traffic comprises a forced reload.

19. (original): A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium having computer program instructions stored therein for implementing the method of claim 16.

20. (currently amended): A computer-implemented method for routing data traffic in a network having a plurality of layers including physical, data link, and network layers, the method comprising:

receiving the data traffic at a network cache;

selecting one of a plurality of routing options for the data traffic with reference to a type of information outside of the physical, data link, and network layers; and

routing the data traffic according to the selected routing option.

21. (previously presented): A network cache for operating in a network having a plurality of layers including an application layer, comprising:

cache memory for storing a plurality of objects; and

an operating system which is operable to:

receive redirected data traffic;

select one of a plurality of routing options for the data traffic with reference to information in the application layer; and

route the data traffic according to the selected routing option.

22. (currently amended): A network cache, comprising:

cache memory for storing a plurality of objects; and

a processor which is operable to:

receiving redirected data traffic;

select one of a plurality of routing options for the data traffic with reference to information in the application layer about the data traffic accessible by the network cache; and

route the data traffic according to the selected routing option.

23. (previously presented): A network cache for operating in a network having a plurality of layers including physical, data link, and network layers, comprising:

cache memory for storing a plurality of objects; and

an operating system which is operable to:

receive redirected data traffic;

select one of a plurality of routing options for the data traffic with reference to a type of information outside of the physical, data link, and network layers; and

route the data traffic according to the selected routing option.

24. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein selecting one of the plurality of routing options for the data traffic is based on relative network resource expenses of data traffic types.

25. (previously presented): The method of claim 3, wherein the information correlates to a relative size of an object that the request seeks.